

**Amendments to the specification:**

On page 1, after the title, please insert the following:

**CROSS-REFERENCE**

The invention described and claimed hereinbelow is also described in PCT/DE 03/03393, filed on October 13, 2003 and DE 103 02 454.9, filed January 23, 2003. This German Patent Application, whose subject matter is incorporated here by reference, provides the basis for a claim of priority of invention under 35 U.S.C. 119 (a)-(d).

On page 1, line 2, please amend the heading as follows:

**Prior Art Background of the Invention**

On page 1, please amend the first paragraph as follows:

The present invention relates to a permanently excited electrical machine, in particular a direct current motor for vehicles, ~~as generically defined by the preamble to claim 1.~~

On page 2, line 5, please amend the heading as follows:

**Advantages Summary of the Invention**

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 2-3 as follows:

The electrical machine of the invention ~~having the characteristics of claim~~ 4 has the advantage over the prior art that has an inexpensive magnet splinter guard that is simple to produce. The magnet splinter guard is formed of a rectangular blank and has an overlapping region extending over the axial length of the splinter guard. The result is a magnet splinter guard that is simple to produce and that prevents pieces of material that splinter off from the magnet from getting into the working air gap between the stator and the rotor. The overlap assures that splintered-off pieces cannot get in between the two layers of the overlapping region to reach the working air gap. According to the invention, centering rings are also provided, which are located on both ends, in the axial direction, of the magnet splinter guard. As a result, centering of the magnet splinter guard can be made possible, so that a working air gap that is constant over the length and is as narrow as possible is preserved. Thus the electrical machine of the invention can be used especially in vehicles, for instance in steering gears for power-assisted steering or as an electric motor for introducing braking force, in which high functional safety must be assured in order to prevent a vehicle from being unsteerable. In particular, the overload couplings presently used for preventing such an unsteerable situation of the vehicle can be dispensed with.

On page 3, please delete the paragraph contained in lines 5-7 in its entirety.

On page 5, line 2, please amend the heading as follows:

Brief Description of the Drawings Drawing

On page 5, line 13, please amend the heading as follows:

Detailed Description of the Exemplary Embodiments

On page 13, please amend the abstract as follows:

Abstract of the Disclosure

~~The present invention relates to an~~ An electrical machine, in particular a direct current motor for vehicles, ~~has having~~ a multi-pole stator which has an annular pole housing (1) and a plurality of magnets (2) that are located on the inside face of the pole housing (1)[[.]], ~~and having~~ The electrical machine further includes a magnet splinter guard (3), which shields the magnets (2) inward in the radial direction toward the rotor, in which the magnet splinter guard (3) is formed from a rectangular blank, has an overlapping region (4), extending in the circumferential direction over the axial length of the magnet splinter guard (3)[[.]], ~~and on~~ On each of the ends (6, 7) of the magnet splinter guard (3) located in the axial direction, a respective centering ring (8) is located, for centering the magnet splinter guard (3).

~~(Fig. 2).~~